

**TITLE XLV  
ANIMALS**

**CHAPTER 466  
DOGS AND CATS**

**Licensing of Dogs  
Section 466:1**

**466:1 Procuring License; Tag.** – Every owner or keeper of a dog 4 months old or over shall annually, cause it to be registered, numbered, described, and licensed for one year in the office of the clerk of the city or town in which the dog is kept, and shall cause it to wear around its neck a collar to which shall be attached a metal tag with the following information thereon: the name of the city or town, year of issue of license and its registered number. The tag and license shall be furnished by the clerk at the expense of the city or town. Regardless of when the license is obtained, the license shall be effective from May 1 of each year to April 30 of the subsequent year.

**Source.** 1891, 60:1. 1925, 96:1. PL 150:6. RL 180:6. RSA 466:1. 1957, 217:1. 1995, 298:1. 1996, 67:1. 1997, 273:1, eff. Jan. 1, 1998.

**TITLE XLV  
ANIMALS**

**CHAPTER 466  
DOGS AND CATS**

**Licensing of Dogs  
Section 466:7**

**466:7 Additional Charge Where Payment of License Fee is Delayed.** – In addition to the license fees provided in RSA 466:4, there shall be a charge of \$1 for each month or any part thereof that the fees remain unpaid if said fees are not paid before June 1 in any year.

**Source.** 1953, 39:1. RSA 466:7. 1965, 325:1. 1977, 356:4, eff. Aug. 30, 1977.

**TITLE XLV  
ANIMALS**

**CHAPTER 466  
DOGS AND CATS**

**Licensing of Dogs  
Section 466:13**

**466:13 Forfeiture.** – Whoever is the owner or keeper of a dog and who fails to license or renew the dog license pursuant to RSA 466:1 shall forfeit \$25 to the town or city clerk of the municipality in which the dog is kept. If the forfeiture is not made to the town or city clerk within 15 calendar days of the notice of forfeiture, the case may be disposed of in a district court as a violation with a fine not to exceed \$50, notwithstanding the provisions of RSA 651:2, IV. A forfeiture shall not relieve the owner or keeper of the requirement of proper licensing of the dog as required by RSA 466:1. This section shall also apply to cats, if the municipality licenses cats. Any forfeitures collected under this section may be retained by the city or town for the administration and enforcement of this chapter.

**Source.** 1891, 60:8. PL 150:15. RL 180:15. RSA 466:13. 1994, 353:6. 1995, 298:9. 1996, 67:4. 2001, 274:6, eff. July 16, 2001.

**TITLE XLV  
ANIMALS**

**CHAPTER 466  
DOGS AND CATS**

**Unlicensed Dogs  
Section 466:14**

**466:14 Warrants; Proceedings.** – The town or city clerk shall annually, between June 1 and June 20, present to the local governing body a list of those owners of dogs that have failed to license or not renewed their dog licenses pursuant to RSA 466:1. The local governing body shall, within 20 days from June 20, issue a warrant to a local official authorized to issue a civil forfeiture for each unlicensed dog. The warrant may also authorize a local law enforcement officer to seize any unlicensed dog. The civil forfeiture may be sent by certified mail, or delivered in hand, or left at the abode of the dog owner. The cost of service shall not exceed \$7 and may be recovered by the city or town in addition to the amount of the civil forfeiture. If the unlicensed dog is seized, it shall be held in a town or city holding facility for a period of 7 days, after which time full title to the dog shall pass to the facility, unless the owner of the dog has, before the expiration of the period, caused the dog to be licensed. The owner shall pay the facility a necessary and reasonable sum per day, as agreed upon by the governing body of the town or city and the facility, for each day the dog has been kept and maintained by the facility, plus any necessary veterinary fees incurred by the facility for the benefit of the dog. Before a local law enforcement officer seizes any unlicensed dog, a written warning shall be given to the dog owner.

**Source.** RS 127:5. CS 133:5. GS 105:5. GL 115:7. PS 118:8. 1891, 60:11. PL 150:18. RL 180:18. RSA 466:14. 1965, 325:2. 1967, 150:1. 1977, 559:1. 1983, 198:1. 1987, 91:1. 1994, 353:7. 1995, 298:10. 1996, 67:5. 2000, 128:1. 2001, 274:7, eff. July 16, 2001. 2014, 178:1, eff. July 1, 2014.

**TITLE XLV  
ANIMALS**

**CHAPTER 466  
DOGS AND CATS**

**Unlicensed Dogs  
Section 466:16**

**466:16 Returns.** – Each local law enforcement officer to whom the warrant named in RSA 466:14 is issued shall return the warrant, on or before August 31, to the local governing body issuing it and, shall state in the return the number of owners who received and paid the civil forfeiture, the number of dogs in the city or town which have been seized and held under the provisions of RSA 466:14, and the number of owners who have received summons to a district or municipal court for failure to pay the civil forfeiture pursuant to RSA 466:13 or to license the dog pursuant to RSA 466:1.

**Source.** 1891, 60:12. PL 150:20. RL 180:20. RSA 466:16. 1994, 353:8. 2000, 128:2, eff. Jan. 1, 2001.